

AGENDA



Thursday, December 18, 2008

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 45**

Subject: Authorize the negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County for the City to reimburse Travis County for Austin/Travis County Family Violence Protection Team related expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$685,586.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$685,586 is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, "Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protective Orders" awarded to the City of Austin for the 24 month period ending September 30, 2010.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: David Carter, APD Chief of Staff/974-5030

The City of Austin is a member of the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Protection Team ("FVPT") and serves as the fiscal agent for the "Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protective Orders." The FVPT, established in 1997, is composed of five government and three non-profit agencies that are located in and offer services to victims in the jurisdictions of both the City of Austin and Travis County. The Team supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking through every aspect of their case, from initial contact, hospital stays, and the filing of Emergency Protective Orders, to follow-up counseling, shelter, and long-term safety planning.

The purpose of the Interlocal Agreement with Travis County is to reimburse Travis County for Austin/Travis County Family Violence Protection Team related expenditures as specified in the grant. Through the terms of the interlocal, each Travis County agency agrees to accept and implement the roles and responsibilities described, and agrees to work together jointly to achieve the goals and objectives of the FVPT. The City will reimburse the Travis County for the personnel, fringe and travel expenses in the amount of \$685,586 during the grant period. Travis County has six (6) positions that are assigned to the Team and funded by the grant.

One Victim Counselor (\$85,203) has been added to the Team and will provide counseling, service referrals, and safety planning to victims of domestic violence and stalking; the counselor will work directly with detectives to follow-up on reported incidents of family violence and stalking. The grant also continues funding for one TCSO Detective (\$128,291) that investigates family violence cases that fall within the county's jurisdiction and provides assistance to the smaller municipalities in implementing "pro-arrest" protocols and improved techniques for collecting evidence. The detective also prepares a domestic violence curriculum and trains victim services and law enforcement personnel throughout the service area of the FVPT, as well as in neighboring jurisdictions.

Travis County Attorney's Office has two County Attorneys (\$304,570) who are available on a full-time basis to implement a comprehensive program for civil enforcement of protective orders, and file and prosecute contempt cases for violations of the orders. An Assistant District Attorney (\$130,418) is assigned on a part-time basis to prepare felony domestic violence cases for presentation to the Grand Jury for indictment. The Travis County Constable Precinct 5 serves Temporary Ex Parte Protective Orders represented by the Travis County Attorney's Office and \$37,104 in grant funded overtime is available through the grant to enhance services.